

Your guide to Aviano Air Base and beyond

the COMPASS

April 1, 2011

Aviano Air Base, Italy

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The COMPASS: Your guide to Italy and beyond

Photo by Airman 1st Class Katherine Windish



Airmen support OOD

Staff Sgt. Bryan Holloway, 510th Aircraft Maintenance Unit avionics craftsman, performs scheduled radar threat warning maintenance on an F-16 Fighting Falcon March 21 at Aviano Air Base, Italy. The aircraft will deploy in support of Operation Odyssey Dawn. Joint Task Force Odyssey Dawn is the U.S. Africa Command task force established to support the larger international response to the unrest in Libya. A broad coalition of nations are partnering to enforce U.N. Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1973, which authorizes all necessary means to protect civilians in Libya under threat of attack by Qadhafi regime forces.

Flybys

Off-base uniform wear restricted

In accordance with CATD OOD-001: All 31st Fighter Wing military personnel, both assigned and deployed to Aviano Air Base, may only wear uniforms off base when going to and from work. Furthermore, all military personnel will remove their uniform shirt/jacket and hat while traveling off base in POVs/GOVs/leased transportation. Aircrew members will wear an over shirt or jacket to cover their flight suits. Reports of violations are being received; violators can expect some form of adverse action.

Aviano hosts rabbit roundup, FOD walk

Team Aviano holds a rabbit roundup and foreign debris walk 8:30 a.m. to noon April 12. The meeting place is at the parking lot outside the 555th Fighter Squadron, next to the Area F back gate. More than 150 volunteers are needed for this event. On-duty Airmen should wear their Airmen Battle Uniforms or flight suits, while individuals off duty and family members should wear comfortable clothes and dress for the weather. Pets are not allowed. For more information, call DSN 632-4808.

ALS instructors needed

The Aviano Airman Leadership School is looking for a highly motivated staff sergeant who is interested in becoming an ALS instructor. Applicants must have a Community College of the Air Force degree and be able to obtain 36 months of retainability. Deadline to apply is April 4. For more information, e-mail michael.page@aviano.af.mil or call DSN 632-5164.

For more announcements, visit www.aviano.af.mil and click on the "Community Briefs" link located under the Featured Links Tab on the right side of the web page.

Emergency Numbers

112- Carabinieri, Fire Department, Medical
911- On-Base emergencies (0434-30-8911 if from a commercial line)
0434-30-3100 - Command Post
DSN 632-3172 - Aviano Straight Talk Line
(0434-30-3172 if from a commercial line)

Cover photo by 1st Lt. Brian Wagner

the
COMPASS

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Deadline info: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Send all information by e-mail to the Compass at avianonews@aviano.af.mil. Faxed articles will not be accepted. The public affairs office is located in Bldg. 1413, Rm. 113. The Compass staff can be reached at Ext. 7555.

Tragic events remind us to stay vigilant

By Gen. Mark A. Welsh III

U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander

Like the rest of you, Betty and I were deeply saddened by the senseless attack at Frankfurt International Airport that claimed the lives of two of our Airmen and left two others seriously wounded. Our hearts and prayers remain with all those affected by this tragic event.

I've been touched by the outpouring of sympathy and support to the victims, their families, and their units from

our Air Force communities at Ramstein Air Base, Royal Air Force Lakenheath, and around the Command. Your response makes me prouder than ever to stand beside you. I was humbled by the incredible response of our German and British hosts, and immensely thankful for our strong, enduring partnership. I'd like to specifically thank the German police who responded to the scene of the shooting and the medical professionals who literally performed miracles

treating our wounded warriors - thanks to them, and some excellent initial buddy care from the victims' Wingmen, our Airmen are on the road to recovery. The United States Ambassador to Germany and his staff were also immediately involved, caring for family members of the wounded, coordinating medical care with the hospital in Frankfurt, and providing translators for family members,

"We shouldn't be scared to walk down the street, but we should do our best to avoid threatening or dangerous situations, and report things that just don't seem right."

escorts, doctors and security officers.

This attack is a grim reminder that we must stay vigilant. Force protection is part of our core business; it's everyone's responsibility. We shouldn't be scared to walk down the street, but we should always do our best to avoid threatening or dangerous situations, and report things that just don't seem right. We're working closely with German authorities to fully investigate the attack. Rest assured, we'll use the lessons learned to determine

the best way ahead to protect our Airmen, our families and other service members serving in and traveling through Europe.

Despite the tragic incident in Frankfurt, I firmly believe Germany and the rest of Europe are safe places to live and work. We're lucky to be stationed here. I encourage you to continue to go about your business, travel, have fun and make friends - but maintain good awareness of your environment and do your best to blend in. Talk with your

family and friends about potential risks and threats and have an emergency response plan both at home and while traveling.

As we mourn our fallen colleagues and support the survivors, we must remain proud of who we are and what we represent. We're a strong family - we'll get through this, and together, we'll continue to Ensure Freedom's Future.

Air Force Commander's Call Topic of Note

The Commander's Call Topics is a weekly product that contains news briefs on personnel issues of interest to Air Force members, their families and the civilian work force. It is geared to help supervisors at all levels keep Airmen informed on current issues as well as provide an opportunity for additional face-to-face communication between supervisors and their teams. To see this week's topics in their entirety, visit www.af.mil/information/cct/index.asp.

AF officials present budget to Senate

"Proceeding with development and production of the KC-46 tanker aircraft; implementing the joint strike fighter restructuring; meeting the combatant commanders' need for more intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; investing in the long-range strike family of systems, including a new penetrating bomber; and enhancing space control and situational awareness all remain critical capabilities for both today's and tomorrow's Air Force," said Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley during discussions about the Air Force fiscal-2012 budget request.

Deadline extended for Stop Loss pay

The deadline for eligible service members, veterans and their beneficiaries to apply for special retroactive pay as compensation for involuntary extensions of their military service contracts has been extended to April 8. To apply

for Stop Loss pay or for more information, including submission requirements and service-specific links, go to <http://www.defense.gov/stoploss>.

Officials announce 2011 teen camps

The annual camps are designed to help Air Force youth build leadership skills and/or aspire to careers in space or aviation. Teen Aviation Camp will be held June 4 through 9 at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.; Leadership Camp will be held July 11 through 15 at the University of Texas at San Antonio; and the Space Camp will be held July 24 through 29 at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala. For more information about each camp, or on Air Force youth programs, visit www.afyouthprograms.com.

Tax laws benefit servicemembers

Due to a holiday, the filing deadline is April 18. Deployed service members and their spouses also have at least a 180-day extension to file or pay taxes from the date they leave the combat zone (to invoke this extension, write "combat zone" across the top of the return). Service members on duty outside the U.S. also are entitled to an automatic two-month extension, pushing the deadline to June 18. Whether filing in person or online, take advantage of the free advice offered at military tax centers. For more on military-related tax laws, visit the Military OneSource website or the IRS website.



Parisian architecture, culture a must see

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Brian Wagner
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

What consists of 2.5 million rivets, 15,000 pieces of iron, 40 tons of paint and is possibly on every tourist's must-see list? The Eiffel Tower is the symbol of Paris and has been visited by over a quarter of a billion people. But, Paris is much more than just a tower.

Paris has many other attractions that are known worldwide, including the Louvre museum, the Arc de Triomphe and the Notre Dame Cathedral. But if you do some browsing of other Paris attractions, you will realize Paris is filled with options for every traveler and it's important to highlight some stops that you may not have even considered.

Let's first travel on a short train ride to the outer limits of the city. The Palace of Versailles is the most famous palace in France and has many elaborate rooms including the Hall of Mirrors. The gardens of the palace stretch more than a half mile and include other structures built for the French royalty. This excursion to Versailles will take about four hours.

Our next stop is to the second largest museum in Paris, Musée D'Orsay. This museum is housed in a former railway station and includes artwork by famous artists such as Claude Monet, Paul Cézanne and Vincent van Gogh. The museum has kept much of its railway ornamentation and visitors can see the original station clock hanging at the eastern end of the museum.

Our third stop off the typical visitor's path takes us to Sainte Chapelle, a chapel famous for its Gothic-era stained glass. This chapel is filled on all sides by sky-reaching windows filled with original 13th century glass. The lower chapel also houses the oldest wall painting in Paris.

The fourth destination is to a unique architectural structure: the Grand Arch of La Défense. This rectangular structure towers over the La Défense district of Paris and offers great views of the city. Once you hop off the Metro, you exit below the base of the 360-foot tall building. There are hundreds of stores located in the three-story shopping mall found surrounding the Grand Arch.

The final stop of the tour concludes at Les Invalides, a multi-purpose building, which houses military museums and memorials. The largest occupant is the Museum of the Army, which houses the tombs of famous French military heroes including Napoleon Bonaparte.

It is best to plan for a week-long stay because there is so much to do in Paris you'll need the time to see all of the sites. Paris is also a great place to serve as base camp if you want to take day trips to other

northern French sites including the Normandy beaches, Loire Valley castles, Disneyland Paris, or the champagne fields of northern France.

Don't let your time in Europe fly by. Hop on a train or flight and head to Paris before your assignment in Northern Italy comes to an end. Bon voyage!



31st CONS: Air Force's best small contracting unit

Story by Staff Sgt. Julius Delos Reyes
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 31st Contracting Squadron recently received the 2010 Air Force Outstanding Contracting Award for a small unit.

"I am extremely proud of the contracting professionals I serve every day," said Lt. Col. William Ping, 31st CONS commander. "This award recognized the dedicated support the 31st CONS provides to ensure the 31st Fighter Wing is postured to fly, fight and win. I'm confident all Air Force contracting units provide outstanding support to their respective wing missions so being singled out is truly humbling."

During 2010, the 31st CONS conducted 14,000 procurement actions worth approximately \$42 million and supported 26 geographically separated units in six inspections. The squadron managed an infrastructure portfolio worth \$65 million and orchestrated a 10-year plan for airfield maintenance and marking plan worth \$6.8 million. The team also spearheaded USAFE's first \$1.2 million geothermal heating upgrade for the Dragon Fitness Center.

"It is beautiful to see a unit working hard towards goals of transparency, compliance, innovation and more and actually be recognized for it," said Capt. Alfort Belin III, 31st CONS deputy commander. "Teamwork provided a structure essential for us to continue to succeed. No one person could have done this alone, but we stood on each other's shoulders and accomplished the mission together."

Moreover, the 31st CONS awarded 26 projects valued at \$8.4 million under the Construction Straddle Program and directed \$1.5 million for the wing sustainment program, expediting 89 priority building upgrades. The 31st CONS also managed a dormitory renovation project worth \$3.3

million, ensuring energy efficiency.

"Wing leadership promotes a teamwork environment and we embrace the opportunity to be a vital part of such prestigious wing," Colonel Ping said. "Both external and internal teamwork is paramount in executing our mission. Externally, we partner with our valued customers to provide quality requirement packages that once under contract, translate into the services, construction and products used every day to execute the mission. Internally, we rely upon each other to determine innovative contract solutions to meet operational needs and seek leveraging opportunities to maximize limited funding resources."

According to Captain Belin, the award shows a team effort and reinforces their approach of doing things right the first time.

"We are truly blessed to have reached the pinnacle of Air Force contracting, but we remain steadfast and continue to provide world-class support for today's warfighters," he said.

Colonel Ping said the award clearly demonstrates the 31st CONS's commitment to the Air Force core value of excellence and further highlights the squadron's commitment to uphold the Air Force contracting guiding principles.

"From our outstanding inspection results to being the first in the Air Force to develop and implement an innovative construction contracting strategy, the members of the squadron have shown the sum of the whole team is greater than the efforts of the individuals," the colonel said. "I want to thank each member of the squadron for their daily dedication to support the mission. With the bar set high, it will be a challenge to continue such stellar accomplishments next year, but the members of the 31st CONS are certainly up to the task."



Lt. Col. William Ping, 31st Contracting Squadron commander, talks about contracting issues to Capt. Alfort Belin, III, 31st CONS deputy commander, Jan. 26. The 31st Contracting Squadron received the Outstanding Contracting Award for a small unit while its Plans and Programs Flight received the Special Recognition Award.

Team Aviano welcomes deployed Airmen

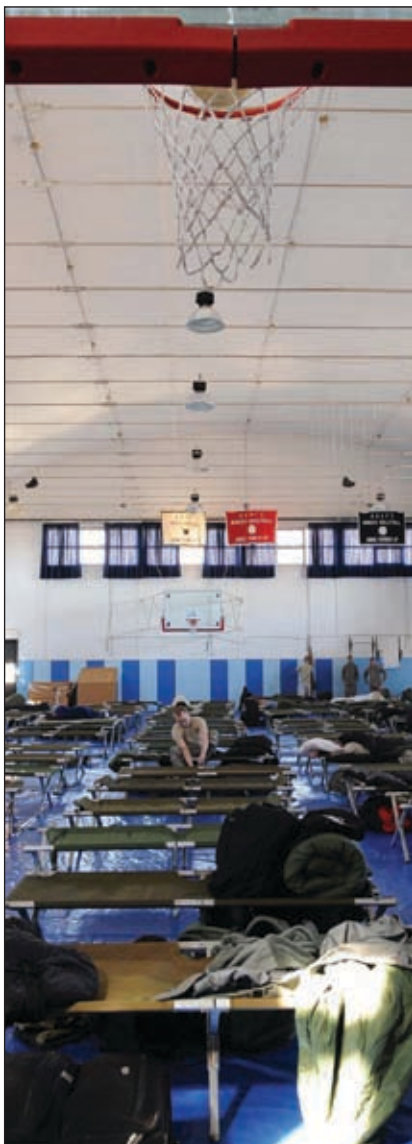


Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Tierney P. Wilson



Airmen arriving to Aviano Air Base, Italy from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany and Royal Air Force Lakenheath, U.K. March 21 get onto a bus to be transported to lodging.

Photo by Airman Airman 1st Class Katherine Windish



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Tierney P. Wilson

U.S. servicemembers are temporarily residing at the Falcon Fitness Center while they are deployed in support of Operation Odyssey Dawn at Aviano Air Base, Italy, on March 22.

Servicemembers from the Navy and Air Force deployed to Aviano Air Force Base, Italy, in support of Operation Odyssey Dawn temporarily reside in the Falcon Fitness Center on March 21. Joint Task Force Odyssey Dawn is the U.S. Africa Command task force established to support the larger international response to the unrest in Libya. A broad coalition of nations are partnering to enforce U.N. Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1973, which authorizes all necessary means to protect civilians in Libya under threat of attack by Qadhafi regime forces.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nadine Barclay

Airmen from various U.S. Air Forces in Europe civil engineer squadrons join forces to set up Alaskan small shelter tents at Aviano Air Base, Italy, March 22.



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VISIT THE MUSEUM CITY OF VOLTERRA

Story by Chiara Mattiolo
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

Volterra is an incredible Etruscan town completely built of stones and located about one and half hour drive south from Camp Darby, Italy.

With its ancient architecture, Volterra is like an open air museum built on top of a hill. The town is completely surrounded by ancient walls, including aqueducts and the Porta dell' Arco, and the narrow streets in the center of town are still cobblestoned. The ancient Roman theater built in the first century B.C. and the Rocca Vecchia, a castle built in 1343 at the center of the city, can be seen from the walls.

The city is also home to many museums, the Museo Etrusco Guarnacci, the Pinacoteca e Museo Civico, and the Museo d'arte Sacra among them. The Museo Etrusco Guarnacci contains preserved remains from Etruscan burial sites, vases, jewels and frescoes. The Pinacoteca e Museo Civico is located in the Palazzo Minucci-Solaini at the town center. The *palazzo* was built at the end of the 15th century and now houses the art gallery's important collection of paintings from local monasteries, churches and conservatories. The Museo d'arte Sacra is now housed in what was formerly the Bishop's Palace and displays works of art from the cathedrals and churches of the diocese including wooden and fictile sculptures, holy vestments, ecclesiastical furnishings and 14th century marble sculptures.

Youngsters love to spend time in Volterra too because of the Twilight series, in which the city was mentioned as the home of the "Volturi," the family responsible for enforcing the rules of the vampire world.

Volterra is also internationally well-known for its alabaster industry and it is one of the town's greatest tourist attractions. Artistic creations created by craftsman are sold in the numerous alabaster souvenir shops throughout town. Alabaster is a soft fragile stone extracted and crafted in Volterra. The tradition of its carving is passed from craftsman to craftsman over the years.

